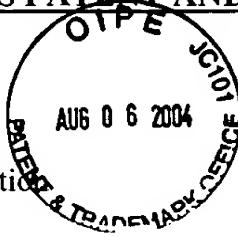


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bruce C. Monk et al
Serial No.: 09/994,399
Filed: Nov. 26, 2001
Title: Validation And Verification Apparatus And Method



Date: August 4, 2004
Group Art Unit: 2625
Examiner: Aaron W. Carter

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This paper is in response to an Office Action dated May 5, 2004.

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COMMENTS

Technology Center 2600

The applicant notes that responsive to applicant's amendment received in the USPTO on January 29, 2004, all requested changes to the claims have been entered. Claims 33-37 have been added, and claims 6-10, 14-30 and 32 have been cancelled. The applicant also notes that: "Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 11-13 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection."

Continuing, the Examiner states that "Claims 1 and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities" and "In claims 1 on lines 14 and 20 and in claim 31 on lines 18 and 24 the phrase "objects identified is step (b)" is grammatically incorrect, the "is" should be replaced with an "in". Appropriate correction is required." The applicant has amended claims 1 and 31 to read "documents identified in step (b)" to be in the form as noted by the Examiner. The change to "documents" is described further in this response.

The Examiner then rejects claims 5 and 34 for informalities stating:

"Claim 5 is dependent upon claim 1, claim 1 includes steps (a) - (d), claim 5 includes steps (h) and (i), steps (e), (f), and (g) are missing. Claim 34 is dependent upon claim 5 and claim 34 includes the steps (g) and (h), now we have two (h) steps because both claim 5 and claim 34 have a step labeled (h). Appropriate correction is required."